



NSLI-Y Persian Summer 2011 Program Description Implemented by American Councils for International Education

**Target Language:**

Persian - Modern Standard Tajik*

Pre-Departure Orientation: June 30-July 2,
Washington, DC

Overseas Host Institutions:

American Councils in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Program Dates: July 2–August 15

Target Language Instruction: 20 hours/week

Accommodations: 2 weeks of group housing and
4 weeks host family stay

Program Overview

The NSLI-Y Persian Summer 2011 program implemented by American Councils takes place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The program seeks to rapidly increase students' Tajik vocabulary and their ability to communicate with confidence in the target language. This is done by improving the participants' Tajik in the following four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. The program aims to accomplish this through in-class language instruction, cultural presentations and activities, volunteer work, and host family stays. Language classes provide an authentic and safe environment for students to extensively study Tajik twenty hours per week. Classroom instruction is supplemented by a variety of activities coordinated by the host institution and Resident Director. Special attention is placed on immersion opportunities for participants to interact with local peers.

Living Arrangements/Participant Support and Supervision

Students are housed in a group setting at the Umeda Resort near Dushanbe during the first two weeks of the program in order to boost their ability to communicate in Tajik. The remaining four weeks are spent in host family stays in Dushanbe. Throughout the program, participants are supported by an American Resident Director who resides in the local community and is available to students on a regular basis.

Textbooks and Materials

The host institution carefully chooses textbooks according to their academic group's level of Tajik. Textbooks are supplemented with authentic and current language materials, which might include short stories, newspaper articles, radio listening exercises, DVD movies or other relevant materials in Tajik. Prior to the program start date, beginner learners are required to complete language assignments that will prepare them for the intensive language course in country.

Language Enhancement Activities

The program features three types of language enhancement activities: cultural presentations and activities, volunteer projects, and self-guided exploration. All cultural activities are coordinated with language classes as much as possible to further strengthen students' vocabulary and at the same time offer an understanding of Tajik and Persian contemporary society, culture, history and environment. Volunteer projects provide practical opportunities for students to use their Tajik language skills and to interact directly with the local community. In coordination with their Resident Director and host institution, students visit places of interest in their host city to further complement their language study.

Please keep in mind that program details may be subject to change.

*Persian is traditionally and historically conceptualized as one language divided into three literary dialects: Farsi in Iran, Dari in Afghanistan, and Tajik in Tajikistan. The NSLI-Y Persian Summer 2011 Program implemented by American Councils will focus on the Tajik dialect of Persian.